

Message Text

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SUBJ: MEDIA REACTION:

ZAMBIA'S TWO DAILY NEWSPAPERS, THE 'TIMES OF ZAMBIA' AND THE 'ZAMBIA DAILY MAIL,' TODAY USE PRESIDENT KENNETH KAUNDA'S "AFRICA FREEDOM DAY" MESSAGE AS THEIR FRONT PAGE LEAD STORIES.

THE 'TIMES' REPORT, HEADLINED: "FREEDOM NOW A MATTER OF TIME," QUOTES THE ZAMBIAN LEADER AS SAYING THAT THE RACIST REGIMES IN SOUTHE
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AFRICA, IN CONJUNCTION WITH WESTERN OIL COMPANIES, PLAN TO USE "EVERY TRICK IN THE BOOK" TO UNDERMINE THE REVOLUTIONARY WAR IN ZIMBABWE.

THE PAPER REPORTS PRESIDENT KAUNDA AS CALLING FOR THE PLUGGING OF SUCH LOOPHOLES WHEREVER THEY EXISTED THROUGH UNITY AND VIGILANCE.

THE PRESIDENT, ACCORDING TO THE 'TIMES', REITERATED HIS GOVERNMENT'S STAND ON MAJORITY RULE IN ZIMBABWE AND FULL SUPPORT FOR THE FORCES FIGHTING THE WHITE MINORITY GOVERNMENTS IN THE REGION.

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THE 'ZAMBIA DAILY MAIL', ALSO REPORTING ON THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE, WHICH WAS RELEASED TO MARK "AFRICA FREEDOM DAY," SAYS THE ZAMBIAN LEADER HAS WARNED THAT THE DIVISIVE ELEMENTS WHICH AFRICA HAS WITNESSED OVZR THE PAST MONTHS CAN WEAKEN HER COMMITMENT TO THE TOTAL LIBERATION OF THE CONTINENT. ACCORDING TO THE

'MAIL' DR. KAUNDA SAID THAT AS THE CONTINENT CONTINUES TO LOOK FORWARD TO GREATER SUCCESSES IN THE LIBERATION STRUGGLE, INDEPENDENT AFRICAN COUNTRIES MUST EQUALLY PAY GREATER ATTENTION TO THE UNITY OF THE CONTINENT.

THE RECENT UN INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE IN SUPPORT OF THE STRUGGLE IN ZIMBABWE AND NAMIBIA HELD IN MAPUTO WAS AN IMPORTANT MILESTONE IN THE DIRECTION, REPORTS THE 'MAIL.'

THE NEWSPAPER ADDS THAT PLEDGING ZAMBIA'S COMMITMENT TO THE ATTAINMENT OF FREEDOM, EQUALITY AND JUSTICE IN SOUTHERN AFRICA, PRESIDENT KAUNDA CALLED ON THE ENTIRE PROGRESSIVE WORLD TO GIVE MAXIMUM MATERIAL AND MORAL SUPPORT TO THE LIBERATION MOVEMENTS AND THE EFFORTS BEING MADE BY THE FRONTLINE STATES TO BRING PEACE AND STABILITY IN THIS PART OF THE CONTINENT.

"NOW IS THE HOUR OF RECKONING. TOMORROW WILL BE TOO LATE. WE CALL UPON OUR FRIENDS AND ALL THOSE WHO CLAIM TO SUPPORT INDEPENDENCE, FREEDOM AND HUMAN RIGHTS TO COME OUT NOW AND ASSIST US,

"

THE 'MAIL' QUOTES DR. KAUNDA AS SAYING.

IN ANOTHER FRONT PAGE REPORT, THE 'TIMES OF ZAMBIA' SAYS A SWAPO - THE SOUTH WEST AFRICAN PEOPLE'S ORGANIZATION - GUERRILLA, WHO WAS WOUNDED AND CAPTURED DURING A GUNBATTLE WITH SOUTH AFRICAN TROOPS IN WINDHOEK, NAMIBIA, LAST YEAR, IS EXPECTED TO BE EXECUTED TODAY. QUOTING A STATEMENT RELEASED IN LUSAKA BY SWAPO, THE PAPER REPORTS THAT THE NAMIBIAN LIBERATION MOVEMENT IS NOW CALLING ON THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY TO DISSUADE AFRICA FROM "COMMITTING MURDER." THE NEWSPAPER NAMED THE MAN FACING DEATH AS MR. NDVUVU PHILEMON NANGOLOO WHO IT SAYS IS UNDER SENTENCE OF DEATH AS AN ACCOMPLICE TO MURDER UNDER SOUTH AFRICA'S ANTI-TERRORIST LAWS.

ACCORDING TO THE SWAPO STATEMENT, SAYS THE 'TIMES,' THE PRETORIA GOVERNMENT PLANS TO CARRY OUT THE EXECUTION IN SECRET AS THEY HAVE NOT MADE ANY PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT ON IT.

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"WE WISH TO DRAW THE ATTENTION OF THE WORLD THAT THE MURDER ABOUT TO BE COMMITTED IN WINDHOEK COMES AT A TIME WHEN THE RECENT DIPLOMATIC CONFERENCE IN GENEVA, WHICH REVIEWED THE GENEVA CONVENTION OF 1949 ON THE TREATMENT OF WAR PRISONERS, AGREED THAT CAPTURED FREEDOM FIGHTERS BE TREATED AS PRISONERS OF WAR," SWAPO IS QUOTED AS SAYING.

IN ITS REPORT, HEADLINED "STOP RACIST FROM HANGING SWAPO MAN, WEST URGED," THE 'TIMES OF ZAMBIA' FURTHER REPORTS THAT SWAPO WOULD PLWCE THE BLAMZ ON THE WEST SHOULD THE EXECUTION BE CARRIED OUT. SAYS THE REPORT: "IF THE EXECUTION OF THE SWAPO FREEDOM FIGHTER GOES AHEAD AS PLANNED, THE ONUS WILL BE ON THE DOOR STEPS OF THE WESTERN POWERS, WHOSE CONTINUED SUPPORT HAS ENABLED RACIST SOUTH AFRICA TO MAINTAIN ITS ILLEGAL OCCUPATION OF NAMIBIA."

REUTER REPORTS CARRIED IN THE 'TIMES' THAT THE SOUTH AFRICAN PRISONS DEPARTMENT COULD NOT GIVE A DATE FOR THE EXECUTION OF MR. NANGOLOO, AND QUOTES A PRISONS DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN AS SAYING MR. NANGOLOO DID NOT DIE AND "I DON'T KNOW WHEN IT WILL BE."

BOTH NEWSPAPERS TODAY USE A REUTERS REPORTS FROM MOSCOW ON THE UNEXPECTED DROPPING OF SOVIET PRESIDENT NIKOLAI PODGORNYY FROM THE COMMUNIST PARTY'S RULING POLITBURO.

IN REPORTS ON THEIR FRONT PAGES, BOTH THE 'TIMES' AND THE 'MAIL' HEADLINED THEIR STORIES "PODGORNYY LOSES PARTY POST" AND "PODGORNYY DROPPED" RESPECTIVELY.

THE 'ZAMBIA DAILY MAIL' ALSO REPORTS ON ITS FRONT PAGE NSC ADVISOR ZBIGNIEW BRZEZINSKI'S REMARKS IN A U.S. NEWS AND WORLD REPORT INTERVIEW THAT DELAYED MAJORITY RULE IN THE SOUTHERN AFRICAN REGION HAS MADE THE SITUATION MORE URGENT, POTENTIALLY MORE DESTRUCTIVE, AND THREATENS TO TRIGGER OFF A MASSIVE CONFLICT IN WHICH SOUTH AFRICA CAN BECOME A TARGET."

THE PAPER SAYS MR. BRZEZINSKI POINTED OUT IN THE INTERVIEW THAT THE UNITED STATES IS TRYING TO USE ITS LEVERAGE TO OBTAIN RAPID MOVEMENT TOWARDS MAJORITY RULE IN RHODESIA AND NAMIBIA.

THE 'MAIL' UNDER A HEADLINE "NOW YOUNG ATTACKS BRITAIN" CARRIES A FRONT PAGE REPORT ON AMBASSADOR YOUNG IN WHICH REUTER QUOTES MR. YOUNG AS ASSERTING IN LONDON THAT THE OLD COLONIAL UNCLASSIFIED

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MENTALITY IS STILL STRONG IN BRITAIN.

IN THE SAME STORY MR. YOUNG ALSO REPORTEDLY DESCRIBES RUSSIANS AS THE WORLD'S WORST RACISTS, SWEDES AS TERRIBLE RACISTS AND SAID SOUTH AFRICA WILL BECOME MORE REACTIONARY BEFORE IT BREAKS.

THE 'MAIL' ALSO REPORTS AN EXCHANGE OF FIRE BETWEEN ZAMBIAN SECURITY FORCES AND SOUTH AFRICAN TROOPS, WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON AT SESHEKE, A SMALL ZAMBEZI RIVER TOWN IN WESTERN ZAMBIA BORDERING NAMIBIA.

A SPOKESMAN FOR PRESIDENT KAUNDA, ACCORDING TO THE PAPER, ANNOUNCED WEDNESDAY NIGHT THAT THE EXCHANGE OF FIRE OCCURED WHEN SOUTH AFRICAN TROOPS "PROVOKED" THE ZAMBIAN FORCES WHICH QUICKLY RESPONDED "AND SILENCED THE ENEMY."

THE 'MAIL' SAYS IT IS THE FIRST TIME ZAMBIAN AND SOUTH AFRICAN TROOPS HAVE OPENLY CLASHED. ITEM USIS LUSAKA. BURNS

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